

Message Text

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ACTION IO-06

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 EUR-08 ISO-00 INRE-00 ARA-06 EA-06

NEA-06 RSC-01 OIC-01 L-01 PA-01 SSO-00 USIE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8626

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

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PARIS FOR NESCO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, UNESCO

SUBJECT: 18TH GENERAL CONFERENCE OF UNESCO: ITEM 39:

US-CANADA ADMISSION TO UNESCO EUROPEAN REGION

REF: STATE 227993

1. I SAW FOREIGN MINISTER SAYE ZERBO MORNING OCT 18 AND DISCUSSED WITH HIM QUESTION OF US ADMISSION TO UNESCO EUROPEAN REGION. I PRESENTED U.S. CASE DRAWING ON PARA 2 REFTEL AS WELL AS ON MY OWN PERSONAL EXPERIENCE WITH THIS PROBLEM. I LEFT WITH HIM A FREE TRANSLATION OF U.S. DRAFT RESOLUTION.

2. ALTHOUGH GENERALLY UNFAMILIAR WITH PROBLEM, ZERBO SEEMED TO APPRECIATE FORCE OF U.S. ARGUMENTS. HE SAID IT WAS UNCONCEIVABLE THAT U.S., WHICH PAYING SUCH LARGE PERCENTAGE OF UNESCO BUDGET, WAS NOT ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN UNESCO REGIONAL MEETINGS. HE AGREED THAT HISTORICALLY, CULTURALLY AND SOCIALLY, U.S. AND CANADA BELONGED IN EUROPEAN GROUP. WHEN I MENTIONED THAT FRANCE WAS OPPOSED TO U.S. PARTICIPATION IN EUR-

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OPEAN REGIONAL MEETINGS, ALTHOUGH OTHER WE'S WERE IN

FAVOR, ZERBO SAID THAT UPPER VOLTA MAINTAINED VERY FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH FRANCE BUT THAT THE TWO COUNTRIES DID NOT ALWAYS SEE EYE TO EYE ON FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES.

3. ZERBO CONCLUDED CONVERSATION BY SAYING HE WOULD DISCUSS MATTER ON URGENT BASIS WITH PRESIDENT LAMIZANA WITH THE VIEW TO SENDING TELEGRAPHIC INSTRUCTIONS TO UPPER VOLTA DELEGATION TO 18TH G.C. TO SUPPORT U.S. POSITION. HE CALLED ME EARLY THE NEXT DAY TO SAY THAT INSTRUCTIONS HAD BEEN SENT TO PARIS ALONG THE LINES OF OUR OCTOBER 18 CONVERSATION.

4. FOREIGN MINISTER ASKED TAT THE SAME TIME WHETHER I HAD RECEIVED REPLY FROM WASHINGTON REGARDING PROFESSOR KI-ZERBO'S CANDIDACY FOR MEMBERSHIP ON UNESCO EXECUTIVE BOARD. I TOLD HIM DEPARTMENT WAS STILL CONSIDERING THE MATTER BUT THAT, SINCE OUR POLICY WAS TO SUPPORT THE ELECTORAL GROUP'S CHOICE, WE HOPED THAT FRANCOPHONE WEST AFRICANS WOULD AGREE ON SINGLE CANDIDATE BEFORE THE ELECTION.

GRAHAM

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